I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Missing Parts, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 12/12/03.

DEC. 1 6 2003

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Peter A. PANEC et al.

Examiner:

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For:

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR GENERATING ALERT MESSAGES IN A

MESSAGE EXCHANGE NETWORK

Mail Stop Missing Parts Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.